### Village of Indian Head Park 201 Acacia Drive Indian Head Park, IL 60525

#### MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to: a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, and a record of votes taken."

Thursday, December 9, 2010 7:30 P.M.

#### **★** CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

#### **★** ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

#### PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews

Trustee Debbie Anselmo

Trustee Brian T. Bailey

Trustee Anne Bermier

Trustee Carol Coleman

Trustee Norman L. Schnaufer

Trustee Matthew P. Walsh II

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration Steve Busa, Treasurer Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

#### **★** PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Richard Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

"I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all".

#### **★** MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Andrews noted that the Board will be approving the tax levy ordinance under the Consent Agenda this evening for fiscal year beginning May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2011 as well as the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law Resolution. Treasurer Busa stated that in Cook County there is a property tax cap. As such, the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law Resolution gives the Village some extra protection to direct the County that if the taxes need to be reduced to comply with the provisions of the property tax cap, then those taxes would be reduced in a certain manner. Treasurer Busa stated that by doing so it allows the County to reduce tax dollars in those funds that have a limited purpose and to allow the Village to receive those tax dollars in the funds that are not for a restricted purpose.

Mayor Andrews noted that Treasurer Busa will be reappointed as Village Treasurer this evening and the Board thanked him for his work with the Village.

Mayor Andrews noted that previously the Village Board voted to join the Nicor Gas Consortium with other municipalities to share expenses and negotiate a new natural gas franchise agreement. He noted that Village Counsel has attempted to negotiate with Nicor Gas for quite some time and an agreement was not reached. Therefore, the Village has decided to withdraw from the Nicor Gas Consortium to minimize expenses to the Village. Mayor Andrews noted that the only expenses to date was a \$500.00 fee for the Village's share for legal expenses to join the Nicor Gas Consortium with many other Villages to try to negotiate a new franchise agreement.

Mayor Andrews reported that the Village's law firm, Storino, Ramello and Durkin, on behalf of the Village, is making a contribution to the charity of the Village's choice. Mayor Andrews stated that the contribution from the Village's law firm will be made to the Make a Wish Foundation.

Mayor Andrews stated that all A T & T U-Verse customers will be receiving a rate increase beginning February 1, 2011.

Mayor Andrews reported that on November 2, 2010, which was also Election Day, a robbery occurred at Blando Jewelers in Indian Head Park. Two suspects made off with some gems and Indian Head Park Police Officers were out working diligently trying to get leads and clues. He further noted that there was also some suspicious activity going on in another part of town that involved two male individuals and Police were out talking to people in the community. Chief Frank Alonzo reported that two individuals were identified and charges were brought against the two suspects who are in custody as it related to these crimes. He added that one suspect is already in the Illinois Department of Corrections for parole violations and two felony charges for armed robbery and unlawful use of a weapon will be brought against this individual.

Chief Alonzo noted the robbery that occurred on Election Day was in the early afternoon and the two offenders held up the jewelry store at gun point and fled the scene. Later that day, a vehicle used in the robbery fitting the description was found on Wolf Road unoccupied. Chief Alonzo stated that vehicle turned out to be stolen and officers followed all the leads working with surrounding communities and other police agencies to lead to the apprehension of the two suspects that committed the crimes. The information provided by the Indian Head Park Police on the two suspects wanted in the Indian Head Park robbery helped the Chicago Police capture the suspects. Chicago Police chased the two suspects, weapons were discharged and one suspect was wounded.

Mayor Andrews thanked Chief Alonzo and the Indian Head Park Police Department Officers who helped and their cooperation with other agencies for the suspects in these crimes to be apprehended.

#### **★** CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Tax Levy Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2011 (Ordinance #2010-11).

Approval of an Ordinance Extending the Period of Participation in the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative for a Period of Three Additional Years (Ordinance #2010-12)

Reappointment of Steven Busa as Treasurer for the term ending December 31, 2011

Approval of a Property Tax Extension Limitation Law Resolution (Resolution #R12-10-1)

Approval of a Resolution to Withdraw from the Nicor Gas Consortium (Resolution #R12-10-2)

#### Approval of Calendar of Meeting Dates for 2011

Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nays: None Absent: None

#### **★** FINANCIAL REPORT - TREASURER STEVE BUSA

Approval of Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2010

Mayor Andrews noted that the Financial Statement for the month ending November 30, 2010 will be deferred to the January, 2011 meeting for approval. He added that all bank statements have not yet been received by the Village for the report to be completed.

#### **★** APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - November 11, 2010

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to approve the November 11, 2010 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

#### **★** AGENDA ITEM

# 1. Ordinance Amending the Village of Indian Head Park Sign Code Regulations (Discussion and possible vote may take place)

Mayor Andrews noted that the Board was presented with an ordinance prepared by Counsel Rich Ramello as it relates to a proposed amendment to the Indian Head Park sign code regulations. He noted the ordinance will be removed from the agenda this evening and it will be considered by the Board at a later date after further review by counsel.

## **★** QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE BY INDIAN HEAD PARK RESIDENTS ONLY

Jim Grady, of 6492 Sioux Trail, stated that early in November he had a discussion with Mayor Andrews regarding various Village financial issues that he raised in a letter to the Mayor and the VBT and he offered to make some suggestions. He noted that he was concerned that not enough funds are being made available for maintenance of the Village roads and other items. He suggested that VBT study alternative methods to provide police and public safety protection for the Village in lieu of having our own police department.

Mr. Grady further stated that based on his review of the financial statements concerning the water department, the water department revenues were about \$750,000 in 2010, while the purchase of water by the Village was about \$325,000 and payroll and other costs absorbed the difference. He believed that in 2010 the Water Department actually lost money so he suggested that possibly the Village could consult with someone to look at what the costs are to run a water department. Mr. Grady said that he worked with a water department many years ago and based on that experience from many years ago he thought it should cost less to run a water department.

Mr. Grady also asked whether changes could be made to the monthly financial report made by the Village Treasurer and whether the Village financial statements could also be posted on the Village's Website. Mr. Grady further requested that the meetings should also be broadcast on the Comcast cable channel. Mr. Grady stated that he has only been to about four Board meetings over the years but he asked if the Board publicly discusses various issues among the Trustees.

Mayor Andrews stated that Mr. Grady's most recent letter regarding his suggestions was distributed to the Board just prior to the meeting this evening and will be reviewed. Mayor Andrews stated that when matters are brought to the Board's attention at a meeting, the Board is not necessarily in a position to discuss it at that meeting. Furthermore, he added that certain matters are handled administratively. Mayor Andrews stated that topics listed specifically as agenda items are those that can be discussed and possibly voted upon by the Board at that meeting. The agendas are prepared and posted according to the Open Meetings Act requirements (48 hours prior to a meeting) and the Board is limited to topics listed on the agenda.

Mayor Andrews thanked Mr. Grady for his comments and added that the Board is always interested in suggestions from residents. Mayor Andrews stated that he encourages suggestions not only concerning ideas to reduce expenses but also on how revenues could be raised in the Village to allow for the services that residents have or would like to add.

Mike O'Connor, of 229 Cascade Drive, stated that he serves on the Acacia Board of Directors and it has come to his attention that a water main break previously occurred between 5 Briarwood and 7 Briarwood and the landscaping was never restored. He added there is a deteriorated storm drain near the curb at 41 Briarwood that is in need of attention. Mr. O'Connor stated that the Acacia Association placed markers throughout Acacia where curbs are located in an attempt to help the Village when the crews are plowing the streets. Mayor Andrews asked Chief Alonzo and Superintendent Santen to follow-up on the items noted.

Aileen Henkel, of 14 Algonquin, suggested that possibly the water department could turn the water heater temperature down to save on energy costs at the Heritage Center. Mayor Andrews stated that he thought that was a good suggestion and would have Public Works act on it.

Jim Davidson, of 6440 Thunderbird Drive, asked how many full-time and part-time employees the Village employs because the Village Website does not have a listing of all personnel. Mayor Andrews stated there are four public works/water department employees, three full-time administrative and one part-time clerical in Administration, one full-time clerical position in the Police Department, five full-time Police Officers, three Police Sergeants, about seven part-time Police Officers and one part-time Chief/Administrator who serves in both departments. Mayor Andrews pointed out that when the Village utilizes part-time fully-sworn police officers it saves the Village on costs because there are no benefits paid to part-time personnel, just an hourly rate. He added that part-time personnel are needed to staff a 24 hour 7 day per week Police Department.

Mr. Davidson asked if the Village contracts out for all water and sewer repairs in the Village. Mayor Andrews stated that major water and sewer repairs like water main breaks are contracted out because the Village does not own the heavy equipment needed to make those repairs.

Mayor Andrews stated that he appreciates the input from the residents. The financial situation and the manner in which the Village operates has been the same for many years prior to his administration. The Board is always open to explore new ideas and receive input. Mayor Andrews stated that Trustees Anselmo and Schnaufer are the Board's Finance liaisons and that he has already requested them to look at possible ways to save costs and enhance revenues. He added that Trustee Coleman has done a good job as Public Works/Water Department liaison to try to save money for the Village in that department.

Mayor Andrews stated that he is looking ahead to the financial situation in the Village that will become critical in about three years when our debt payments will increase if more revenue is not generated. He added that one reason the Home Rule Referendum question was placed on the ballot was to try to find a way to increase revenue from sources other than property taxes. However, the Home Rule question was not approved by the voters so that matter is behind us now.

Mr. Grady asked if the Finance Committee meetings are open to the public and posted on the Website when their meetings will take place. Mayor Andrews said that if there is a public meeting, notice will be given and an agenda will be posted.

Chris Trifilio, of Thunderbird Drive, asked if there are any other revenue possibilities for the Village other than home rule. Mayor Andrews stated that the options previously discussed included a property tax increase since there has not been a property tax increase in the Village for at least fifteen years. The home rule option would have allowed the Village to try to seek revenue from sources other than property taxes. The Administration will explore options other than a property tax increase.

Chris Trifilio, asked if residents in the community voted the home rule down because they were opposed to it or because they maybe did not understand what home rule was about. Mayor Andrews stated he and the Village Board tried to educate residents about home rule but perhaps people were concerned that the Board would have more authority with home rule. As an example, Mayor Andrews pointed out that people who live in condominiums or townhomes have an association board of directors that basically act as a home rule authority. That association Board makes the plans, determines the cost, approves a budget and determines the owner's share of the assessment. Mayor Andrews stated in a homeowners association situation there is only one place to go for the money and that is to the property owner. On the other hand, a home rule community would have additional sources from which to seek revenue other than just from property owners.

Mr. Davidson stated his opinion that much of the argument about why home rule is needed was that the Village is not currently allowed to seek out some new sources of revenue without approval from the State. He asked if the Village has sought those sources of revenues as a non-home rule community through proposed legislation as possibly new business taxes.

Mayor Andrews pointed out that as a non-home rule municipality, IHP can only raise revenues from sources specifically authorized by State law whereas if it was a home rule community, IHP would not need such specific State authorization. Further, Mayor Andrews pointed out that it has only been one month since the November election regarding home rule. He said that no contact has been made to try to seek specific legislation regarding revenue sources that would have been unnecessary if the home rule referendum had passed. For such specific legislation to pass, it would require the majority support of the entire Illinois General Assembly. Mayor Andrews stated that when he was in Springfield talking to legislators the State was actually proposing to possibly reduce some of the state shared revenue from income taxes to municipalities which would further reduce revenues to the Village if that legislation passes. Mayor Andrews stated that the Village has one state representative and one state senator, if those two people support that legislation they would have to get the majority of the rest of the General Assembly to support it and the Governor to sign it. Mayor Andrews stated that if the Village had become a home rule community, it would have the authority to make some of those decisions at the Board level rather than seeking action from the State.

Chris Metz, of 6402 Arrowhead Court, referred to a recent Chicago Tribune article about police pensions that suggested that there were many towns that were under-funded regarding police pensions. He noted that Indian Head Park was not one of those under funded communities listed and asked how the police pension is funded in Indian Head Park. Mayor Andrews stated that Indian Head Park is in good shape and participates in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund which is different from the downstate police pension. He noted Indian Head Park has been paying into the retirement system as we go and the pension fund is in good shape. Chief Alonzo stated that towns that have a population under 5,000 residents participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and towns with populations over 500,000 participate in the downstate police pension which is comprised of all individual towns that support their own retirement fund. Chief Alonzo said that a percentage is contributed by the Village and employees contribute a share to their retirement as well. He noted that the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund is not only municipalities that participate but also schools and other governmental agencies. Mayor Andrews reiterated that the Village is in good shape with respect to the police pensions because we have been making the proper contributions as required.

Mr. Davidson further asked whether the Village can pursue those other sources of revenue by requesting specific legislation from the State. Mayor Andrews asked Mr. Davidson if he is suggesting that Indian Head Park as a non-home rule community look to the sources that the Village is currently authorized to use to raise revenue. Mr. Davidson stated that during the home rule discussions it was mentioned that if the Village became a home rule community it would be able to seek other sources of revenue so because the home rule referendum was not approved, the Village should go to the State and request authorization to take advantage of those sources of revenue through legislation. Mayor Andrews stated that he would ask counsel to check into whether there are any sources of revenue available to the Village as a non-home rule community through State legislation.

Mayor Andrews stated that he appreciates comments from the residents and that he will look into the possibility of any legislation that might be available to non-home rule communities to help raise revenues.

Mayor Andrews announced that IHP is slated to receive approximately \$400,000 in capitol improvements through State funding. He stated that the Village has applied for funding from the State pursuant to the Illinois capital improvement plan over a year ago. The Village submitted a list of various capital improvement projects and the money that would be needed to complete those projects under the Sate of Illinois Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Andrews stated that the project list was requested by and sent to Illinois State Representative Jim Durkin and Illinois State Senator Chris Radogno. He noted many of the Indian Head Park capital improvement projects requested varied in cost from thousands of dollars to millions of dollars but that those approved were in the range of \$350,000 to \$400,000. Mayor Andrews stated some of the projects included capping a well in town that was required by the IEPA, the Cochise Water main project and a sidewalk along Willow Springs Road along the County right-of-way leading north from Walgreen's. Mayor Andrews noted the State was hoping to fund these projects through video gaming revenues and although some projects were approved for funding, the money has not yet been received from the State. Accordingly, Mayor Andrews did not announce those projects earlier. However, he noted that it now appears that at some point in the future money from the State for capital projects will be approved and allow the Village to complete the approved projects.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Village had no choice but to pay for the well to be capped at the south entrance of Acacia that was required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency even though State funds to complete the project had not been received by the Village. He noted that when the money comes in from the State for that portion of the project it will help with the budget deficit. Mayor Andrews stated that capital funding projects are funded entirely by State money and there is no shared cost by the Village to complete those projects but the State can decide which specific projects they will fund. He noted that street repairs and other projects were also included on the list. Mayor Andrews pointed out that the Village Board does make attempts to find revenues to fund various projects through other sources through contact with local and State representatives. He noted that when this money comes in from the capital funding bill it will be earmarked for the specific projects that were approved by the State for such funding.

Mayor Andrews pointed out that the Village had previously sought and received Federal stimulus funding for Blackhawk Trail to be resurfaced. He noted that although Blackhawk Trail was not at the top of the priority list to be resurfaced, it was the only street in the Village that qualified under the Federal road mapping system requirements that could be resurfaced with federal stimulus money. Mayor Andrews stated that a few years down the line when Blackhawk would have needed improvements the money may not have been available to complete the project so the Blackhawk re-paving was moved ahead of schedule in order to utilize the Federal stimulus funds.

Mrs. Pat Grady, of Sioux Trail, stated that she believed that there is nothing more important than sidewalks along Wolf Road because of safety for the children in going to school and that maybe it is illegal not to have a sidewalk on Wolf Road. She said that in her opinion Indian Head Park is the only Village that does not have a sidewalk on Wolf Road while other Villages have them. She said that she would like to have sidewalks on Wolf Road. Mayor Andrews suggested that possibly Mrs. Grady could contact the Cook County Commissioner and County Board to discuss a sidewalk on Wolf Road because Wolf Road is a County highway and the County would determine if funding is available for that project. Mayor Andrews stated that about \$500,000 is needed to repave streets in Ashbrook and Arrowhead Trail, but that the Village does not currently have that money for street projects, there is a budget deficit, and consequently there are no funds available for a sidewalk on Wolf Road that would cost the Village in excess of \$2 million. Trustee Bermier stated that she has been on the Board for a long time and over many years there were many meetings with residents who were publicly opposed to a sidewalk on Wolf Road. Trustee Bermier stated she recalled many residents attending meetings over the years who were not in favor of a sidewalk on Wolf Road, the idea was rejected based on the majority and the Board over the years has discussed the issue of sidewalks many times.

Trustee Walsh stated that he recalled working with Dartmoor Homes to obtain \$175,000 in funding from Dartmoor for a sidewalk to be placed on Plainfield Road. He noted there have been many other meetings over the years to try to find funding for sidewalks in other areas of town. Trustee Walsh stated that in most Villages when a new development comes in there are negotiations for various items including many times for a sidewalk to be installed. He added that when Indian Head Park was created there were many smaller subdivision areas with some custom homes that were built by many builders so sidewalks were not part of the concept plan. Trustee Walsh stated that a sidewalk was installed along Ashbrook Development and that project is one of the new projects in town. Trustee Walsh stated that some of the town was previously golf course areas and much of the rolling terrain still remains without some curbs and sidewalks.

Trustee Walsh further stated that when Western Springs was being built with all of the development areas possibly the builders put in the sidewalks as part of those plans or there was a special service district created. Trustee Walsh stated at Timber Trails Development in Western Springs the property owners had to pay an additional amount of money on their property taxes for a period of years as a special service area to pay for sidewalks and roads. Trustee Walsh further suggested that if residents in Indian Head Park want the Board to explore a special service district area to fund a sidewalk on Wolf Road or their own neighborhoods, the Board could look into that option if that is what residents want the Board to do. However, there is no funding available at this time for sidewalks.

Mayor Andrews stated that it would be nice to have sidewalks throughout town where appropriate but there are no available funds to pay for a sidewalk.

He added that residents of Indian Head Park have voted to take a certain direction with regard to Village finances. Mayor Andrews stated that everyone has their own priority list regarding projects they would like to see accomplished. Some residents would like their streets repaved and would forego the sidewalk while others may want the leaf pick-up program restored before any sidewalks are installed. However, he said the Board will decide projects that can be completed based on funds available, and the Board will not vote to spend itself into a big deficit to spend money the Village does not have. The Board's goal is not only to reduce costs but also to raise revenues. Mayor Andrews stated there are occasions when grant money is available for certain projects but sometimes the Village would need to come up with a percentage to cover the rest of the costs. He added that the Village does not have the ability to take advantage of grant funds because there is no extra money in the budget to make up for shared costs.

Mr. Grady stated that in his opinion it is dangerous for residents to be walking, riding a bike or jogging at the edge of Wolf Road and that he recalled meetings about sidewalks over the years where it was left to a committee to look into the matter and possibly determine if there were sources of funding to pay for sidewalks. He asked if there was any conclusion on that matter. Mayor Andrews stated the matter was discussed at a meeting some time ago and that Chief Alonzo previously attended many meetings with school Board representatives regarding sidewalks and there was no funding available. Chief Alonzo reported this to the Board and ultimately these issues were resolved administratively without the need for Board action. Mayor Andrews further stated that the Village is unique demographically as Trustee Walsh previously pointed out and various areas of town have unique characteristics. He noted, for example, that some residents fall within the Pleasantdale Park District boundary and pay additional taxes to that district, there is no library district in town but that would be a special line item on the tax bill and residents would need to vote to approve that by referendum vote (the library district referendum in Indian Head Park previously failed twice over the years). Mayor Andrews also mentioned that a question was placed on the ballot over the years by the Pleasantdale Park District to add the north side of town in Indian Head Park to their taxing boundary (twice that referendum was defeated for the rest of the town to become part of the park district).

Mayor Andrews reiterated what Trustee Walsh mentioned regarding a special service area. That is, that if 51% of the voters in a certain area of the Village request it, a special service district could be created to fund a sidewalk through an additional property tax that those residents would pay. Mayor Andrews further stated that Wolf Road is a county road and everyone pays taxes to Cook County so that it should be the County's responsibility to pay for a sidewalk along their right-of-way.

Mayor Andrews pointed out that water revenue is also a source of funding for municipalities in general.

He added that an article appeared in the newspaper that Western Springs is raising their water rate to \$8.01 per 1,000 gallons of water which is about one dollar more per 1,000 gallons of water than Indian Head Park charges. Mayor Andrews stated that Western Springs plans to use those water revenues to support some highway maintenance bond instead of a property tax increase. (Western Springs is on a well water system and not on a Chicago water system (like IHP) with the exception of Timber Trails.)

Mayor Andrews stated that the Board is trying to hold the line on expenses; several changes have been made to reduce spending to save costs such as the requirement that all expenses over \$100 receive prior approval from Mr. Alonzo. He added that with respect to the water department, there are additional expenses other than simply the cost of the water such as salaries, clerical staff, building expenses, and water infrastructure maintenance costs that are needed in order to run a water department.

Chris Trifilio stated that his wife and her family have lived in Indian Head Park for many years, when he moved to Indian Head Park he knew what the demographics of the community would be and services that would be provided. He added that he knew he was buying a house in a town without sidewalks, fences are not permitted and sometimes people are not willing to follow rules and they want to change everything. Chris Trifilio stated that the taxes in Western Springs are much higher, that town has substantially more revenues coming in from various sources than Indian Head Park, even if there were sidewalks on Wolf Road it is too narrow to allow children to ride or walk along that road because it is a busy street and a sidewalk would not prevent a distracted driver on a cell phone from swerving off the road and onto the sidewalk. Chris Trifilio stated that if there are no sidewalks he would either walk his child to school or drive them to school instead of letting them go by themselves along Wolf Road. Mayor Andrews thanked Mr. Trifilio for his comments, the Board will do their best for everyone, the cost involved for a sidewalk would be a substantial expense (likely close to \$3 million today) and there is no available funding in the budget for sidewalks.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Schnaufer, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:45 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary